

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING THE CONTEXT OF A DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A handheld electronic device (100) includes at least one context sensing circuit and a microprocessor (204), and a user interface (212). The sensing circuit detects (205) either a contextual characteristic of the device (e.g., ambient light, motion of the device or proximity to or contact another object) or how the user is holding the device and
10 generates a virtual output (207) representative of the sensed characteristic. The sensed contextual characteristic is associated with a data management function of the device and a virtual physical representation to be output in response to the execution of the data management function is determined. The virtual physical representation is related to the sensed contextual characteristic or the data management function. The virtual physical
15 representation is output by a user interface of the device.